August 17, 2021

Dear Marauder Families,

The new school year is rapidly approaching and with that, I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back. We hope that the 2020-21 school year is as “normal as possible” but we will all need to work together to ensure that our schools are safe and healthy.

Ovid-Elsie Area Schools will not be mandating masks for staff or students but the Mid-Michigan District Health Department strongly encourages stakeholders to continue to mask up, however, this will remain a family decision. Additionally, Ovid-Elsie Area Schools will continue to encourage physical distancing, self-screening, appropriate ventilation, hand washing and respiratory etiquette, and assist the Health Department with contact tracing. Bottom line, if a child (or staff member) is exhibiting signs of being sick, please stay home. The District will still notify stakeholders when a positive COVID-19 case arises and we will continue to keep our website up-to-date.

School will officially begin for all students on Wednesday, August 25, 2021. The buildings are currently open and all staff will report back officially on Monday, August 23, 2021. A new calendar may be found by visiting our district calendars website.

Our device deployment for all students will take place during the first few days of school. If you need assistance or a device prior to this date, please contact help@ovidelsie.org.

Ovid-Elsie Area Schools has been selected for the “Summer Seamless Option” for our food service program. Thus, all students will be eligible for free breakfast and lunch! However, it is still critical that we have families fill out the lunch application available at lunchapp.com or by using a hard copy. These applications help the District receive grants such as the Summer Seamless Option as well as other important opportunities. Please take a moment to fill out this application - we greatly appreciate it!

With the departing of a few staff due to retirement or new opportunities, we would like to welcome several new staff members. We are excited to welcome these new teachers to the Marauder Family:
Kindergarten - Emma Morris; 1st grade - Courtney Loynes; at the High School - Autumn Winsor (counselor), and Megan Bender (science); and, at Alternative Education - Mary McKern. We also have a couple of new paraprofessionals - Kim Pontek and Danielle Cook - who will both work at the secondary campus. We would also like to welcome Jilliane Bushard as she transitions to a new position in the Information Center and Trina Pontack at the Middle School. We still have a few positions to fill, but if you see these new faces around please welcome them!

Finally, we are wrapping up the construction and projects that were slated for this summer and the buildings are looking amazing! We had quite a bit of damage from the storm a few weeks ago but those projects are getting addressed as well. We still have some outstanding projects that will take place next spring and summer and we are super excited to break ground on our solar project in the near future. We are thankful for the support of our community and are proud of the outcome of our bond extension projects. I would be remiss if I didn’t thank our building and grounds crew for all of their hard work this summer as well as our technology staff who kept things up and running all summer long.

We are excited to have students back on campus this fall and if we all do our part, TOGETHER, we will make this a great year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child(ren)’s teacher, your building principal, or to the Superintendent’s office.

Yours in Education,

Dr. Ryan L. Cunningham, Superintendent, Ovid-Elsie Area Schools